

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please replace the original abstract (page 146) with the following substitute abstract.

ABSTRACT

A group formation/management system that rigidly sets ~~the range of~~ a group range, and allows contents to be used freely among member devices in the group, ~~the system including and includes~~ one or more registered member devices ~~operable to hold~~ for holding common secret information unique to the group, a new member device ~~operable to transmit~~ for transmitting a request for registration in the group and ~~to receive~~ receiving and ~~hold~~ holding common secret information, and a group management device ~~operable to receive~~ for receiving the registration request from the new member device and, when the number of registered member devices is less than the maximum number of registerable member devices, ~~to output~~ outputting the common secret information to the new member device. Furthermore, because member devices are authenticated using the common secret information when contents are to be used, and contents are only delivered if the authentication is successful, ~~it is possible to prevent~~ member devices that do not hold the common secret information (i.e. unregistered member devices) can be prevented from using contents.